

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

Courant Community

LOCAL NEWS

East Hartford claims championship



East Hartford freshman Dravyn Roberts (left) in his Class LL 160-pound championship match against Ridgefield junior Andrey Kosygin. Roberts pinned Kosygin to clinch a tie for East Hartford for the Class LL wrestling team championship, the Hornets' first. Story, page 3. **TIM ROBERTS/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

LOCAL NEWS



Patrick Frommer and Tyler Szegda battle with Sutton Fransen. **MELANIE SAVAGE/COURANT COMMUNITY**

Hockey teams wrap up regular season

The win over Northeastern brought the E.O. Smith-Tolland record to 16-3-1 with one game remaining. **Pages 8-9**

LOCAL NEWS

Real-time alert app available to residents

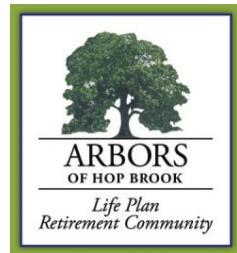
Manchester police have launched an app designed to alert citizens to active investigations. **Page 5**

LOCAL NEWS

Student mental health a focus in Glastonbury

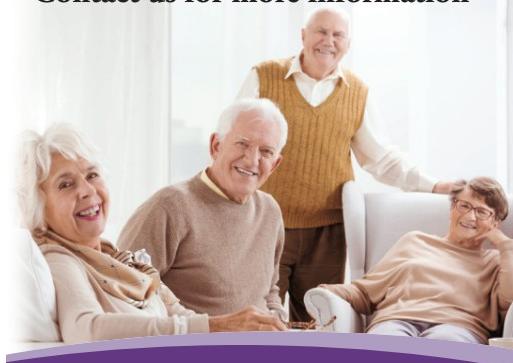
During this budget season, emphasis is being put on the school system's student support centers. **Page 7**

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Spring lecture series returns

VERNON — SOUTH WINDSOR — The Friends of Wood Memorial Library's performance lecture series returns with three different programs. Martha Washington, portrayed by professional actress Maggie Worsdale, will take place on Wednesday, March 23, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Lizzie Borden and the 40 Whacks will be performed by The Delvena Theatre Company on Wednesday, April 27, from 1 to 2 p.m. and a Friends of Wood favorite, History at Play, LLC, will be presenting the world premiere of their new program, Diana of LOVE™, performed by artistic director Judith Kalaora, on June 10. Diana of LOVE™ will be offered twice, at a 2 p.m. matinee and a 7 p.m. evening performance.

Program fees for Martha Washington and Lizzie Borden are \$20 each. The fee for either performance of Diana of LOVE™ is \$25. Visitors are strongly encouraged to pre-register well in advance at www.woodmemoriallibrary.org, as there is limited seating. Wood Memorial Library & Museum is located at 783 Main St.

Dementia seminars taking place in South Windsor

SOUTH WINDSOR — Dealing with Dementia will take place at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at HarborChase of Evergreen Walk, 1000 Evergreen Way. The program will be presented by Heather Hitchcock, Community Education Manager at Bristol Behavioral Health.

Delaying Dementia will take place at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, and will be presented by Dr. Harry Morgan, geriatrician with The Center for Geriatric and Family Psychiatry.

Contact 860-698-3013 or Hhartman@harborchase.com to RSVP. A light chef-prepared dinner will be served with refreshments.

Tween crafting, preschool storytime taking place

BOLTON — The Bentley Memorial Library, 206 Bolton Center Road, is holding an in-person program for tweens ages 12 to 15. Participants will create a paper bag star

from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday, March 12.

Choose from brown, white, or a combination of the two. Registration is required. Contact the library at bmlprograms@biblio.org or call 860-646-7349 to register. Space is limited to eight people.

Preschool Storytime: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day will take place on Wednesday, March 16, at 11 a.m. The in-person storytime is for children ages two to six and will feature St. Patrick's Day books and a craft activity. Registration is required. Call 860-646-7349 or email bmlprograms@biblio.org for more information or to register. Space is limited to the first eight children.

Glastonbury Centennial Lions Club to hold pasta dinner

GLASTONBURY — The Glastonbury Centennial Lions Club is holding a curbside pick-up pasta dinner on May 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at First Church of Christ, 2183 Main St.

The menu features pasta with homemade Bolognese sauce, Caesar salad and dinner roll prepared and donated by Salad Bar Glastonbury, and a chocolate brownie. The cost is \$10 per meal. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

A portion of the proceeds will fund the Glastonbury Centennial Lions Club scholarship for student residents in Glastonbury. Email GlastonburyLions@yahoo.com to purchase tickets. If you cannot attend, consider donating a meal to emergency first responders and the Lions will deliver it.

Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Club invites retirees to meeting

EAST HARTFORD — Pratt & Whitney and UTRC retirees are invited to the March meeting, held at the PWA Club Inc., 200 Clement Road.

Conversation, coffee and doughnuts will begin at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 16. The program begins at 10 a.m., with Mark Nomad, musician. For further information, contact the Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Club at 860-565-6236.

There will not be a monthly meeting if East Hartford Schools are closed due to inclement weather. There is a meeting if

there is a school delay.

Donation drive to benefit Julie's Safe House

ELLINGTON — The Ellington Women's Club is holding a donation drive during March to benefit Julie's Safe House. Boxes to accept items will be in the Hall Memorial Library, 93 Main St., and the Ellington Senior Center, 40 Maple St.

Items requested are those one would use to set up a household, as well as personal products. A list of items is attached to each box.

Julie's Safe House is part of the network that leads North Central Connecticut in preventing domestic abuse, fostering healthy violence-free relationships, prevention, education and services. Visit www.thenetworkct.org for more information.

Poetry Rocks to celebrate Irish heritage

VERNON — Poetry Rocks, a quarterly series entering its sixth year, will have an in-person, Irish-themed reading at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at Arts Center East, 709 Hartford Turnpike.

The reading will feature Nancy Kerrigan, author of the full-length poetry book, "Lucky Enough: A Journey," and the chapbooks, "The Voices: The Poetry of Psychiatry" and "High Heels & Sneakers." Also reading is Garrett Phelan, the author of the chapbook "Outlaw Odes" and micro-chapbooks, "Unfixed Marks" and "Standing Where I Am." A student from the award-winning Rockville High School creative writing program will read as well. An open mic will follow the featured readers.

The suggested donation is \$5. Masks are required, regardless of vaccination status. Contact pegideitzshea@aol.com or visit www.artscentereast.org for more information.

Vernon Garden Club to 'Remember Gardens Past'

VERNON — On Monday, March 21, the Vernon Garden Club members will be presenting, "Remembering Gardens Past." A variety of photos will be shown of the

gardens and yards of Vernon Garden Club members.

Each member will discuss the history of his or her photo. Shade gardens, container gardens, tips for new plantings and landscape techniques will be shared. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Vernon, 695 Hartford Turnpike. A business meeting will follow. Guests are welcome. For more details, call 860-926-4332.

Strong Family Farm fundraiser to help the bees

VERNON — The Strong Family Farm is hosting a fundraiser to help support the farm's pollinators. Walt Moody, the farm's apriarist, said a hive was lost this winter. The farm will buy more bees to replace them in the spring.

Visit www.flowerpowerfundraising.com, click "Buy Bulbs & Help a Cause" and search for Strong Family Farm, or visit www.strongfamilyfarm.org for the direct link. Browse the catalog for vegetable and fruit seed packs and flowers to grow this spring. All the proceeds will go towards helping the bees thrive at Strong Family Farm.

Historical Society flea market seeking vendors

ELLINGTON — The Ellington Historical Society is seeking vendors to participate in the annual vintage flea market to be held on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nellie McKnight Museum, 70 Main St. The fee for a 10x10 tent is \$40. Registration can be done online at www.ellingtonhistsoc.org under the events tab or by emailing ellingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or calling 860-872-0121.

Library hosting wellness program, UFO experience talk

ENFIELD — WINDSOR LOCKS — Director of Access Physical Therapy Windsor Locks, David Chessen, will be returning to the Windsor Locks Library on Thursday, March 17, at 3:30 p.m. to discuss *Turn to Community News, Page 4*

Courant Community

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How East Hartford won its first state wrestling championship

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

EAST HARTFORD — East Hartford freshman wrestler Dravyn Roberts didn't think his team had a chance when he stepped onto the mat for his 160-pound final at the Class LL state wrestling championships, on Feb. 19, at Trumbull High.

After the previous day's preliminary matches, East Hartford was leading in the team standings and had nine semifinalists going into Saturday. Only three Hornets won in the semifinals, and Danbury — the five-time defending Class LL champion — had four of its five wrestlers move on to the finals.

East Hartford coach Todd Albert knew what the score was, but he wasn't about to tell any of his kids. They didn't need any more pressure. With two weight classes left — 152 and 160 — East Hartford needed two pins to tie Danbury.

East Hartford senior captain Cooper Lavigne, wrestling for fifth place at 152 pounds, didn't know the score.

"We had some tough matches," Lavigne said. "We were trying to stay positive. People lost their match, we'd say, 'Come back strong. Go get the next one!'"

Lavigne did his part, pinning Trumbull's Hayden Provencal in 4 minutes, 14 seconds.

Then it was Roberts' turn. He

was the top seed and had to wrestle second-seeded Andrey Kosygin, a junior from Ridgefield.

Roberts pinned Kosygin in 2:21.

"My finals match, I was told we weren't even in it, like, we were out of the race," he said. "I was just wrestling, just trying to win my first state championship."

"I pinned him and then people told me we tied Danbury and I was like, 'Wait, what? No way. How is that possible?' It was wild."

East Hartford and Danbury both scored 232 points, the first time two teams tied for a title and the first time East Hartford won a wrestling state championship. The closest the Hornets had come was in 1987, when Albert was a junior 132-pounder and East Hartford finished second to NFA.

"Fairfield Warde was in it, too. Then there was a point when Warde was no longer there," Albert said of Saturday. "It was us and Danbury. You kind of almost stopped keeping score and said, 'All right, let's focus on the wrestler, have him do what he's got to do.'

"Our last two guys pinned to win. Dravyn Roberts had the pin to make the miracle happen."

Danbury has been dominant in the sport, winning 21 of the last 25 Class LL titles, with only Xavier and Newtown disrupting the Hatters' streak over the last quarter century.

East Hartford was 14th in Class LL in 2020, 12th in 2019 and fifth — its highest finish since 1987 — in 2018.

This season, the Hornets went 20-0 and had two freshmen — Roberts and 106-pounder Isaac Quiles — win class championships.

"I knew we were going to be good, but I didn't think we were going to be this good," said senior Xavier Quiles, Isaac's older brother and the Class LL 170-pound runner-up. "This team actually shocked me to be honest."

But it wasn't due to a miracle. The Hornets, who have five freshman and two sophomore starters, have had a youth program in town for the last eight years. Even though they're young, the Hornets have plenty of experience.

"[Roberts'] father Tim is one of our youth coaches," Albert said. "It's a collective effort. It's our youth program, what we get these guys doing in the offseason. I'm appreciative of everybody who gives their time to help these kids do the best they can."

At the State Open the following weekend, Xavier won its second State Open title, scoring 204 points. Danbury was the runner-up with 145, Simsbury was third with 135 points and East Hartford was fourth (134).

— Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

Tolland returning to in-person, hybrid meetings

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

Hancock said she was planning to make the decision as of Feb. 28 to lift the mask mandate as well, but there was some discussion about whether municipalities' executive officers are able to make that decision, per state orders.

"I'm not 100% sure. I could be wrong, but I think that as of

the 15th, that executive order for the town manager to be able to make that decision for masks may have gone away," said council member Tammy Nuccio.

Council Chair Steven Jones said he felt the hybrid meetings worked well in the past and would do so again.

"I think it will work out fairly well. I think it has worked well for a long time — for the past several months where we've had it," he said. "It will be a good opportunity, as we get into some of the peak budget meetings, to have that opportunity for people who still want to still participate remotely to do so, and for being in the town chambers and the library program room."

The motion passed unanimously, and the change took effect as of Feb. 23.

For more information, visit www.tolland.org.

ORTHOPEDIC UPDATE



"Dr. Daniel is highly qualified for hip and knee replacement surgery"

— ROBERT McALLISTER, MD

CHAD DANIEL, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon

ROBERT McALLISTER, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon

Chad Daniel, MD recently joined Hartford Orthopedic Surgeons and has unique fellowship training in advanced robotic joint replacement surgery. He is passionate about customizing the right treatment plan for his patients, whether it be physical therapy, medications, or joint replacement surgery. For an appointment call (860) 525-4469.



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Community News

from Page 2

dizziness, vertigo, and vestibular conditions.

This program will take place in-person with an option to attend live at home via Zoom. Learn about disruptions to the vestibular system that can provoke symptoms including vertigo, dizziness, headaches, and loss of balance.

Chessen will teach positioning techniques that can treat these conditions and reduce symptoms. Register online at www.windsorlockslibrary.org/programs or call 860-627-1495. In-person attendees must wear a mask.

The library rescheduled its UFO Experience program for Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m. Join in person with local best-selling author Stephen Spignesi.

Spignesi will be presenting on his book "The Big Book of UFO Facts, Figures, and Truth." Space is limited. Masks are required. Register online at www.windsorlockslibrary.org/programs if you were not previously registered for the original date, or call 860-627-1495.

Windsor Art Center hosting Second Layer exhibit

WINDSOR — Second Layer by B.D. Stellmacher will open at Windsor Art Center, 40 Mechanic St., the weekend of March 19. The opening weekend events will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 19 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 20.

The exhibit will run until April 23. Second Layer will feature a series of large-scale paintings that explore the concept of recognizing and acknowledging the beauty that lies beneath one's appearance. It challenges viewers to embrace the gifts, knowledge and wisdom we individually possess and to resist the

CROSSWORD ANSWERS FOR TODAY'S PUZZLE



urge to judge one another by race, gender, religion, sexuality, etc.

Stellmacher challenges viewers to dig deeper than what they initially see and "persevere to annihilate the surface of the first layer to embrace the gorgeous wealth that resides within the second." In addition to the "Second Layer" series, Stellmacher will include other paintings that explore various themes that include social justice, music, religion, education, and the Black experience in America. Visit <https://www.windsorartcenter.org/> for more information.

Enfield townwide tag sale seeking participants

ENFIELD — The 10th anniversary of the Enfield townwide tag sale will be held on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine.

Early bird sign-ups have begun. Cost to add your Enfield address to the map is \$25, via check or money order.

Checks must be made out directly to the Enfield Food Shelf and mailed to ETWTS c/o EFS (P.O. Box 699 / Enfield, CT 06083). Checks must be received by Saturday, April 30, to be guaranteed placement on the map. Specify the address of the tag sale if it differs from the address on your check. Registration can also be processed online by credit card or PayPal by going to the Enfield Food Shelf website at www.EnfieldFoodShelf.org and clicking on the Tag Sale Donation link on the homepage.

Tag sale addresses will be plotted on a map of Enfield that will be available to shoppers the week of May 9. Tag sale signs will be placed at tag sale addresses and cross streets to guide shoppers prior to May 14.

Every year, 100-percent of the proceeds collected go directly to the Enfield Food Shelf. Every \$25 donation submitted will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

Enfield Library issues call to local artists

ENFIELD — Area residents are reminded that the Enfield Library has openings available for gallery presentations in the Community Room at the Enfield Central Library.

Oil paintings, watercolors, or framed crafts can be easily and attractively hung using a secure display system. Both individual artists and art groups are encouraged. Call Katie Werth at 860-763-7557 to make arrangements.

Thanks to a generous grant from Enfield Culture and Arts Commission (ECAC), the Pearl Street Branch Library also has a display system that can be used by area artists when local students are not displaying artwork. For more information, turn to **Community News**, Page 11.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Courant Community will print a current birthday photo FREE in one edition. Submit a current photo and 15-word description including name, age, birthday, town, your name, daytime phone number to community@courant.com or to Courant Community, P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141. Please submit three weeks in advance to avoid disappointment.



Happy 4th Birthday, Jacob (3/19): "To our sweet, cool dude! We love you. Grandpa and Grandma."



Happy 12th Birthday, Donald (3/4): "You are such a handsome, bright young man. Love, Mom, Dad, Alex, and Mae."



Happy 4th Birthday, Hunter (3/16): "Wishing you a wonderful year. Love you to the moon and back. Grandma & Grandpa P."



Happy 88th Birthday, Ralph (3/5): "With love from your family."



Happy 7th Birthday, Madison (3/8): "Beautiful, smart, funny, lovable. Love you always, Oma and Opa."



Happy 60th Birthday, Bill (3/17): "We love you! Fran, Angela, Joel, Joe, and Morgan."



Happy 13th Birthday, Alexandra (3/13): "You are my sunshine. Love, Dad."



Happy 33rd Birthday, Lauren (3/21): "Keep on shining!"

Manchester police make real-time alert app available to residents

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER — Manchester police have launched a smartphone app designed to alert citizens to active investigations and help police fight crime.

Atlas One allows police to share real-time crime and incident information and provide residents access to crime reports and other department resources, police say. The free app became available Monday.

Police Chief William Darby had noticed departments outside Connecticut using the technology and thought it could be valuable in Manchester, police spokesman Lt. Ryan Shea said.

Police will still post press releases and alerts on Facebook and Twitter, but the Atlas One app offers a tailored tool without all the “noise” associated with social media, Shea said.

Police and other public agencies across the nation are using the app, according to the Atlas One website, atlas.one. “Your community is the ultimate force multiplier,” the company says.

The app, according to Atlas One, allows police to engage and motivate residents to help fight crime by publishing transparent

information about incidents and investigations. It also allows residents to “easily and safely” share anonymous tips about crimes they witnessed or have information about, according to the company.

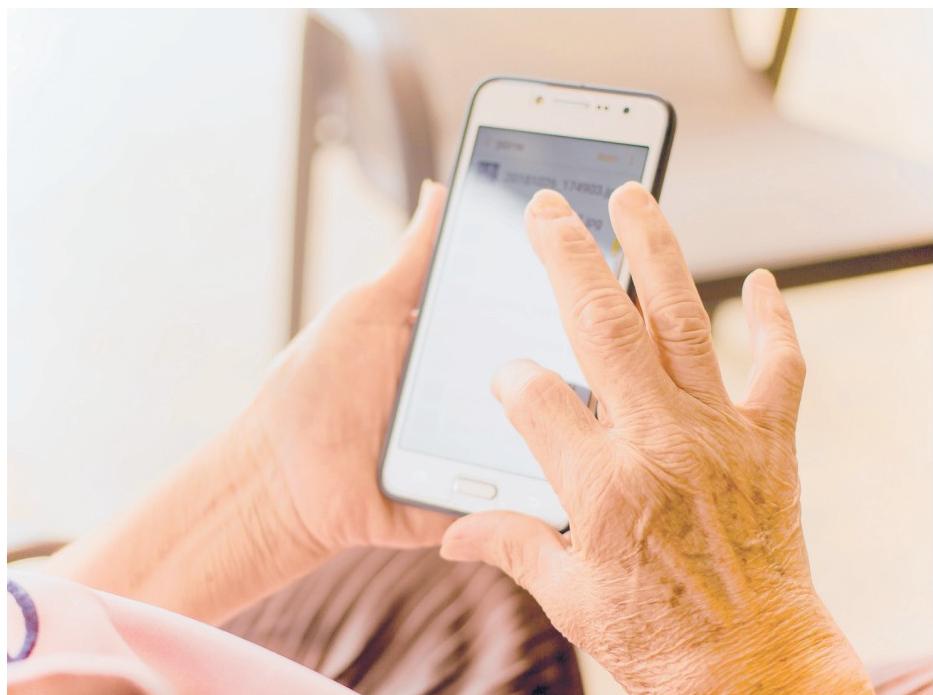
People with the app receive push notifications on their smartphones when, for example, police are looking for a robbery suspect in the area. Crowd-sourced intelligence and tips, according to Atlas One, result in increased arrests, clearance rates and crime prevention.

Rocky Hill police are the only other department using the app in Connecticut, Shea said. People who have the Manchester app would receive alerts from Rocky Hill police if they were in that town at the time, or in any other community in the nation that uses Atlas One, he said.

Police do not have “granular access” to users’ information, Shea said. Also, he noted, although the app is free to download, standard data rates apply to users.

Shift commanders will decide when to send alerts, Shea said. The app also has a link to the department’s online crime report and police are working on enabling users to send tips, he said.

— Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com.



Senior on a smart phone. **CONTRIBUTED**

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Renovation of XL Center could get boost from private investor

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — A break in a two-year logjam over using \$65 million in state funds to finance a major renovation of downtown Hartford's XL Center could come this spring, as the arena's new management company seriously considers investing in the project.

Oak View Group, which manages 300 sports and entertainment venues globally and redevelops others, said it is "very likely" the Los Angeles-based company would invest in a renovation of the aging Hartford arena.

A financial commitment would bring private investment to the table sought by Gov. Ned Lamont as a way to ease the burden on state taxpayers.

"We're looking at this with an eye toward a public-private partnership," Peter Luukko, chairman of OVG Facilities, said. "We're more than willing to put our own funds into this renovation."

Luukko said OVG has not yet determined how much it would invest because a study of the scope of renovations must be updated. Details of a partnership with the state also would have to be negotiated, Luukko said.

"We believe the facility has the bones," Luukko said. "It's dated, and if we could restore it, it could become an incredibly active facility as it was many years ago."

Luukko said OVG is involved with the redevelopment of an even older arena in Baltimore and another just outside of Toronto.

Michael W. Freimuth, executive director of the Capital Region Development Authority, which oversees the XL Center's operations, said an OVG commitment would be a major step forward, after two years that included shutdowns during the pandemic.

"It's someone saying they are willing to invest in the building, too," Freimuth said.

The long debate

The future of the 47-year-old arena in the heart of downtown Hartford has been debated for more than a decade.

Supporters say it is a vital amenity for fostering downtown's revitalization and its ecosystem of restaurants and bars. The XL Center, they say, is an attraction for the region. Critics argue the state should not keep pouring money into a venue that historically has lost money, typically \$2 million a year.

A \$250 million plan for a massive, top-to-bottom makeover failed to gain traction with legislators. Two years ago, the vision was slimmed down to \$100 million. CRDA argues a major renovation is needed to put the arena on the path to profitability and keep it competitive in the industry.

Pressure to move forward with some plan flared up in recent weeks, as the University of Connecticut negotiates what is expected



Oak View Group, which took over management of downtown Hartford's XL Center six months ago, is seriously considering investing in a major renovation of the aging arena. **BRAD HORRIGAN/THE HARTFORD COURANT**

to be a one-year lease extension at the XL Center arena. UConn men's and women's basketball and men's ice hockey play roughly 30 games a year.

Some local sports pundits argued a decision about an XL renovation should be made or it would be better for UConn to play in Storrs.

In a statement, UConn said it hoped to reach an agreement that is beneficial to both sides for playing in downtown Hartford.

"It is obvious that the XL Center is overdue for a major renovation," the statement said. "Tuesday's game against Villanova displayed that building can provide a fantastic atmosphere, but many of the off-campus venues our peers are competing in are NBA or NBA-level facilities."

"Our basketball programs deserved to be housed in facilities that are considered among the best in the Big East," the statement said.

UConn said it is obviously more convenient for its students to watch games on campus — Gampel Pavilion for basketball — and are key supporters and create a "high-energy environment on game day."

But UConn also said students are just one part of the equation.

"The XL Center provides a more convenient commute to many of our fans from around the state simply by the nature of its centralized location than campus," the statement said. "That convenience, along with

the building's capacity, translates into larger crowds being able to watch the Huskies in action."

OGV's Luukko said UConn playing at the XL Center — and the fact that UConn sports are so ingrained in the state's culture — plus having the AHL's Wolf Pack was an extremely strong base to build on.

Public-private partnership

The \$65 million approved by the legislature is key to the \$100 million renovation and was supported by Lamont. But Lamont said the funding — raised through the sale of bonds — was contingent on private investment.

"The governor always prefers public-private partnerships when available and this is no exception," Max Reiss, a Lamont spokesman, said in a text.

The last major renovation of the XL Center was in 2014, at a state taxpayer-cost of \$35 million. The project added a fan club and logo premium seating, and made improvements to the concourse and restrooms.

The work was intended to carry the arena through perhaps a decade or so until the decision was made to either do something bigger so the XL Center would remain competitive or let it wind down.

The \$65 million would come on top of \$40 million bonded in 2017 for repairs and to attract a private investor or buyer, which

drew little interest. The funds in 2017 also were intended for purchasing the privately owned atrium off Trumbull Street to expand the concourse.

About half of the \$40 million has been spent replacing the arena floor, installing a new ice rink and ice-making system and repairing elevators and escalators, work that couldn't wait for a larger renovation.

CRDA plans more improvements this summer that could dovetail with a larger renovation. Those include the addition of a sportsbook, expanded locker rooms and replacement of retractable seating.

Overall, the \$100 million plan focuses on the lower half of the arena, adding more premium seating and concessions, all intended to bring in more revenue, Freimuth has said.

OGV took over management of the XL Center about six months ago after acquiring Spectra, the previous manager. OVG kept local personnel in place who have knowledge of the market, Luukko said.

Luukko said he also spent large parts of his career in Connecticut — parts of it involved with the XL Center, formerly the Hartford Civic Center — and resides 35 miles away in Essex.

"We've got a head start because we know the market and the arena itself," Luukko said.

— Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

GOOD NEIGHBOR

Your reader-to-reader column

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TRANSPORTATION: Seeking transportation to medical appointments in Glastonbury and Putnam. Located in Stafford. Text or call 774-289-7888.

PAILS: Looking for five to six empty five gallon plastic pails with covers. 860-729-7509.

DESK: Seeking desk in good condition with medium color wood or lighter. Glastonbury area. 860-430-2994 or 860-368-8087.

CASSETTE PLAYER: Looking for cassette player in very good condition. Willing to pay reasonable price. In Glastonbury area. 860-368-8087 or 860-430-2994.

METAL SHELVING: Need metal shelving for an art project. 860-951-0095.

GREEN TRIP: Seeking a farmer who can sell green tripe to feed to my dogs. 860-267-6040.

MEMORY CARDS: Looking for someone to donate or sell cheaply the following: A CF card or CF32 card for use in an older A85 canon camera or any SanDisk card, only 2.0 gigabytes. 860-648-9147.

TABLET ASSISTANCE: Seeking someone to set up tablet and phone. Will pay. 860-666-5699.

Be a good neighbor

To submit, send an email to community@courant.com or mail to 285 Broad St., Hartford, CT 06115. Good Neighbor is a service by Courant Community. Questions and answers are provided by our readers and are not verified. Medical information cannot be published. Caution should be exercised at all times. The publisher is not responsible for damage to any person or property.

FOUND: Baseball Card in protective plastic cover found in Marlborough, Connecticut in 2014, unintentionally tucked away, and recently uncovered. Send an email to cs-137@outlook.com with an accurate description of the card, and we'll get it back to the owner.

SEEKING TO RENT: At least 1,500 to 2,000 sq. ft. of cold storage. Rocky at 860-490-3816 or 860-872-6269.a

DRONE FOUND: Vicinity of Elm St & Courtney Drive, Rocky Hill. Text with description for return. 860-402-2655.

FOUND EYEGLASSES: Eyeglasses found on Carriage Drive, Manchester. 860-646-4242.

AUTO MECHANIC: Seeking auto mechanic to repair pickup truck. Am senior citizen, phone with reasonable price. 860-796-6132.

FURNITURE: Seeking a light wooden chest having five drawers in good condition. Call after 5 p.m. 860-665-0141.

LOST BRACELET: Bracelet lost at ALDI's of Rocky Hill by carriages. It was a birthday gift. Call if found. 860-778-8556.

PUZZLE SWAP: Will meet half way if too far to go. Have 20, most new. 860-568-1378.

SEEKING: Small boat trailer for a 12 boat, will buy. 860-741-2633.

NECKLACE FOUND: On Carillon Drive, Rocky Hill. Call with description for return. 860-965-6672. Messages will be returned.

SNOW SHOVELING HELP: Senior looking for an individual to shovel out parking space and clean off car after snow storms in Collinsville. 860-305-6701.

CAR: Seeking automobile to help out with transportation in 2022. Elderly with low Social Security. 860-515-1488.

LAPTOPS: Collecting used or new laptops from kind donors. These laptops will be donated to school kids in Ghana. Contact Ben, 423-676-8815.

NAUTICAL ROPE: Looking for free ½- or ¾-inch nautical rope for DIY projects. 860-490-8956.

PROPANE: Seeking propane Salamander. Will pay a reasonable price. 860-749-2190.

LAWN MOWING, SNOW REMOVAL:

Does anyone know of someone who mows grass and/or plows snow? 860-289-0101 after 5 p.m.

CAR: Seeking a donated good running car for elderly person in Putnam for doctor appointments. Cannot afford one. 508-335-5060. Leave a message.

Student mental health a focus as Glastonbury Town Council reviews school budget

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

GLASTONBURY — The Glastonbury Town Council reviewed the Board of Education budget at a special meeting, on March 1, and student mental health was on the mind of those in the discussion.

Board of Education Chairman Doug Foyle said the proposed increase of 3.25% is only half of the rate of inflation, and still meets the town's education needs.

"This budget reflects both the expectation for excellence demanded by the community and the fiscal responsibility we seek," Foyle said.

Superintendent Alan Bookman said a great deal of work went into the budget to mitigate uncertainties, adding that the board cut his original proposal of a 3.8% increase.

Questions from the council included the out-of-town enrollment in the district's Learning Independence and Necessary Knowledge for Success (LINKS) program. Bookman said the number is constantly changing, but currently there are 13 students enrolled. Recently, there were as many as 17, and there are two expected to join soon.

"It's going to hover around those different numbers," he said.

The pandemic has canceled many activities, which has built a reserve of some funding, and Bookman said much of that will be used this year, as all activities are expected to take place.

Emphasis is also being put on the school system's student support centers, which are staffed with social workers and counselors. Foyle said the board was made aware with student mental health issues last spring, and began the support center program last fall, which was paid for by the board's reserve 1-percent fund, but is included as a line item in the proposed budget.

"If this investment keeps just one kid out of the hospital, keeps just one kid from committing suicide, it's money well spent," Foyle said.

The support centers are currently located at the high school, as well as Smith Middle School and Gideon Welles School. More recent data suggests that a similar program should be in place for elementary students.

Council Chairman Tom Gullotta suggested perhaps enhancements to the town's Youth and Family Services could be provided in the near future, like in next



The Glastonbury Town Council reviewed the Board of Education budget at a special meeting, on March 1, and student mental health was on the mind of those in the discussion. PETER MARTEKA

year's budget, to support younger kids, but to be aware of overlapping with what the schools would be doing.

"The mental health issues of young children often go unnoticed," Gullotta said. "Children in elementary schools tend to rely on their parents, their teachers, and their imaginary friends. If you're in a classroom, it's possible to miss signs. I would ask the town manager to revisit your budget for Youth Services and report back to us."

"I think we'll have agreements of what we'll do, and we'll put that down [in writing]," Bookman said, adding that he agreed with Gullotta.

"You don't always know what's going on with those students, and if that can be done through Youth and Family, I think that would be wonderful and fully appreciated."

"If there is an ability to expand the support in the elementary schools, I think that would be welcome," said council member Deb Carroll. "It's just this side of impossible to find mental health support for kids these days."

Town Manager Richard Johnson said the town would be looking to find a full-time social worker to work with elementary school students.

"This is clearly an area where our two branches of government need to collaborate," said council member Jennifer Wang.

For more information, visit www.glastonbury-ct.gov.

Northeastern, E.O. Smith hockey teams wrap up regular season



Northeastern's Jason Tew controls the puck.



Northeastern's Jason Tew controls the puck.



Members of the Northeastern Shamrocks hockey team stand for the National Anthem before the start of a varsity game against E.O. Smith-Tolland, on Feb. 27. **MELANIE SAVAGE**

By Melanie Savage
Courant Community

COLCHESTER — The 7-0 win over the Northeastern Shamrocks brought the E.O. Smith-Tolland varsity hockey team's record to 16-3-1, with only one game remaining in the regular season. As of press time, the Bucks were in the No. 1 position in Division III.

The Northeastern Shamrocks celebrated Senior Night, on Feb. 27, during the game at Bolton Ice Palace.

The seniors on this year's team are Tyler Szegda, Patrick Frommer, and manager Elizabeth Moulton.

Formerly BCR, the Northeastern team currently encompasses students from the towns of Bolton, Coventry, Rockville, and East Hartford, as well as athletes from RHAM and Windham Tech.

The Shamrocks' head coach is Galen Byram, assisted by Ian Holm. Moulton and Genevieve Griswold serve as team managers.

The E.O. Smith-Tolland varsity boys' ice hockey team is coached by John Hodgson.

The seniors on this year's team are Patrick Brennan, Sutton Fransen, Keegan Hodgkinson, Aidan Kelley, Conor O'Brien, Daniel Polquin, Cole Schoen, Cameron Sterling, Zachary Stoltenberg, Kaleb Van Horn, and Quentin Wry.



Northeastern's Dominic Fusco warms up with his teammates.

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Northeastern's Patrick Frommer (left) and Tyler Szegda vie with E.O. Smith-Tolland's Sutton Fransen for control of the puck.



Northeastern's Patrick Frommer warms up with his teammates.
Melanie Savage

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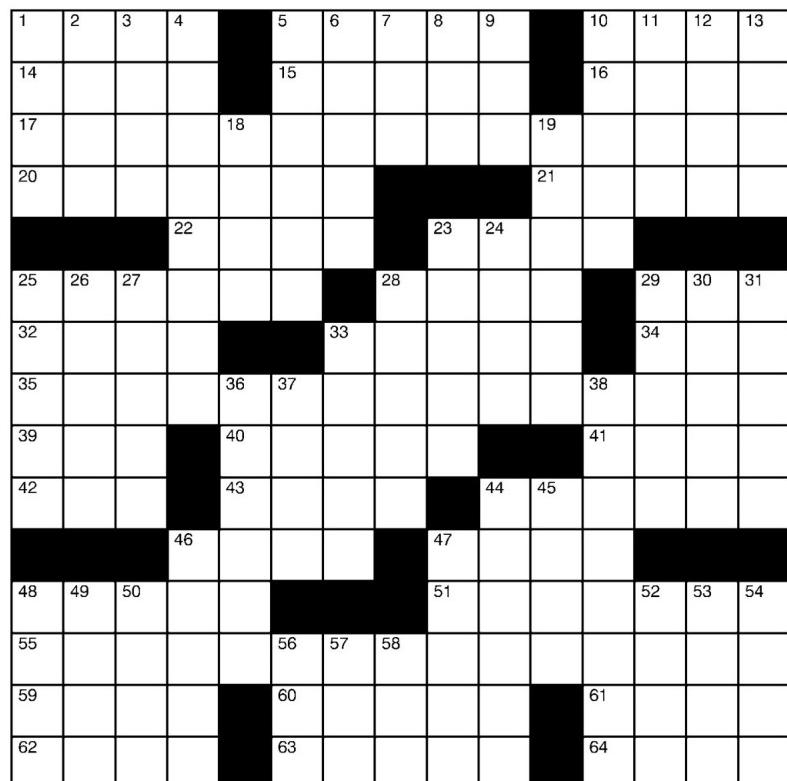
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LOCAL NEWS

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Weather Watch



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By Neil Manausa

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 58 Hail!

Community News

from Page 4

tion on this space, call Aimee Sixt at 860-253-6265.

Congregational Church hosting tag, bake sale

SOMERSVILLE — The Ladies Aide Society of the Congregational Church of Somersville is holding a St. Patrick's Day tag and bake sale on Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The church is located at 22 Maple St.

Enfield Library hosting simple stories

ENFIELD — Enjoy simple stories, songs, fingerplays, open play and art for one-year-olds at the Enfield Public Library on Friday, March 18, at 9:30 a.m. Waddling Ones is an early literacy program designed for caregivers and their child, ages 12 to 24 months. This is a drop-in program. Call 860-763-7518 or 860-763-7512 or visit www.enfield-publiclibrary.org for more information.

Enfield Senior Minor Repair Program to restart

ENFIELD — The Enfield Department of Social Services on behalf of the Commission on Aging is restarting the Enfield Senior Minor Repair Program for 2022. The program focuses on performing minor repairs, at no cost, at the homes of seniors ages 60 and over.

the homes of seniors ages 60 and over.

Requests will open on March 14 by calling 860-253-6396 and will start work on Tuesday, April 5. Appointments are on a first come, first serve basis and will be filled on Tuesdays. Visit <https://www.enfield-ct.gov/429/Social-Services> for more information on the tasks performed.

Berlin Town Hall showcases Veterans Digital Wall of Honor

AVON — BERLIN — The Berlin Veterans Commission has a Veterans Digital Wall of Honor in the Main Lobby Rotunda of the Berlin Town Hall. The video slideshow is shown on a 50-inch Smart TV and plays in a loop every day the Town Hall is open. There is also a YouTube link that people can click on to see the video slideshow from anywhere in the world. Visit <https://youtu.be/BF6zgBGspUE> to view the video.

Every Berlin resident and their imme-

diate family members, past and present, who have served or are currently serving in the military - Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, & Reserve, can be put up on the wall. Only one family member needs to be living in or has lived in Berlin. Organizers put all family members grouped together from the earliest to the latest time of service.

The commission is looking for Berlin residents to provide photos, military history and/or DD 214 (Release from Active Duty) of any family member, past or present, who has served or is currently serving in the military, so they can be honored on the wall. They are seeking one or two photos, full name, dates and branch of service, rank, MOS (what they did in the Service) and possible conflicts or where they have served.

Photos and military history that need to be scanned may be left, in an envelope, at the Berlin Town Manager's Office, along with contact information. If they are scanned, email them directly to Peter Galgano at petergalgano@comcast.net, or call 860-604-7258.

Association hosting virtual demo, in-person workshop

AVON — Artist Shauna Shane will demonstrate for the Avon Arts Association via Zoom on Tuesday, March 15, at 630 p.m. Shane will also conduct an in-person workshop at the Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main St., on Saturday, March 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The workshop fee is \$45 for Avon Arts members and \$55 for guests. Contact Avonartsassociation@gmail.com for Zoom link information and to reserve a spot in the workshop.

A professional painter for over 40 years, Shane's paintings communicate energy, color and atmosphere. Her work is saturated with light and color in a variety of mediums including watercolor, oil and pastel. She began her career as resident artist at Yellowstone National Park.

Gallery on the Green presenting member, guest exhibition

CANTON — Gallery on the Green is hosting a member/guest exhibition, plus solo shows by Justine Ickes and Rob Loebell, from March 18 through April 16.

The gallery is located at 5 Canton Green Road. Call 860-693-4102 or visit www.galleryonthegreen.org for more information. The exhibit and shows are free and open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the above period.



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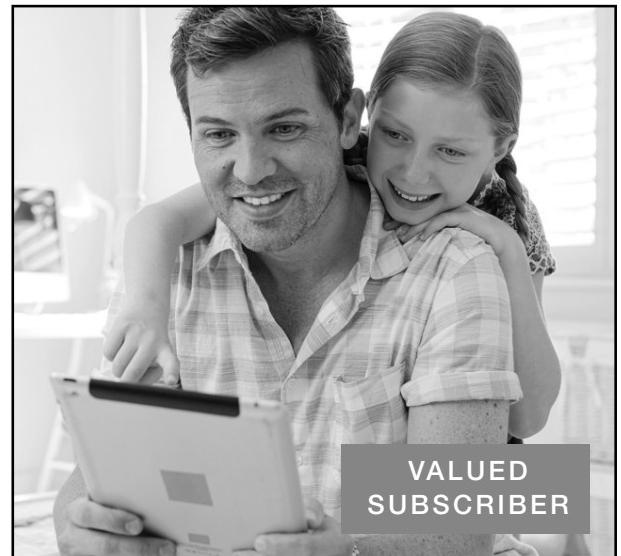
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Driving a ruby slipper

By William Heald

Special to Courant Community

It's a funny thing about cars: many just look like generic, run-of-the-mill transports, some look like experiments that only a designer could love and some actually remind you of some other type of object entirely.

Today's car falls into the last category (for me, anyway), for the Genesis GV70 is a luxury crossover utility vehicle that has a profile that resembles a familiar item of footwear, namely, a slipper. Simple, I know, but it has a smooth, aerodynamic profile that is the antithesis of boxy, truckish SUVs.

It is also a smooth, solid, safe coach that helps justify its lofty price tag. It has both luxury and performance as you would expect from Hyundai's premium nameplate, as well as the latest in safety, communications and driver assistance technology. It packs all this great stuff into a truly stylish exterior, and while having family resemblance to other Genesis vehicles it definitely has a unique aspect on the road.

The long, sleek slipper Genesis (or the GV70 AWD 3.5T Sport Prestige as our test car is called) is built on a 113.2-inch wheelbase and is powered by a 3.5-liter twin turbocharged V6 with 375 horsepower. This is teamed with an 8-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters for manual operation, ultimately getting power to the pavement through a sophisticated all wheel drive system. There are multiple drive modes of course, including comfort, eco, snow, sport, sport+ and custom.

The suspension is designed (like most of the sport luxury class) to deliver both

sharp handling and a compliant ride, largely achieved through a fully-independent multi-link suspension with electronic control and something called Road Preview. This system takes road information scanned by the front cameras and proactively tunes the suspension to prepare for when you encounter it. Bottom line: the GV70 has a stable, controlled ride no matter how gnarly the road becomes.

The interior continues the slipper motif at least in terms of comfort, for our tester had the Sport Advanced package which included nappa leather upholstery with a slick suede insert. The instrument cluster is an all-virtual affair, with some "3-D" effects and a classic analog appearance, supplemented with a heads-up display. The central touchscreen is a 14.5-inch unit in landscape format that is navigated using a big round knob, that, unfortunately, is the same diameter (and directly next to) the knob used to operate the transmission. While you'll no longer mistake the two after a few years of continuous driving, it's not a great design in my view.

What is well rendered is the passenger allocation of the second row seating, for they are roomy, comfortable, and well suited to long days on the road. The latest safety technology, especially of the driver assistance variety, is stuffed into this machine like an automotive turducken. Despite the fast-back roofline, the GV70 has 28.9 cubic feet of cargo space, expanding to 56.9 cubic feet with the rear seatbacks folded.

The 2022 Genesis GV70 AWD 3.5T Sport Prestige is EPA rated 19 MPG city/25 highway and with options has an MSRP of \$64,045. www.genesis.com



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Retaining walls provide beautiful outdoor seating



(BPT) - Humpty Dumpty had the right idea when he sat on a wall, as segmental retaining wall (SRW) systems can be used to create beautiful, versatile outdoor seating solutions. Many businesses expanded outdoor seating out of necessity over the past two years, and retaining walls were up for the challenge.

Homeowners also prefer retaining walls for landscaping projects such as seat walls around a fire pit or to create a raised patio to replace a deck. Renowned for the ability to retain earth to prevent erosion and tame slopes to create buildable sites, SRWs, including the VERSA-LOK Retaining Wall System, are beautiful, durable and low-maintenance open-air seating solutions.

Dining al fresco

A beautiful outdoor living space is a wise home investment, and it's also become a necessity for hospitality businesses. Many facilities lacking patios built temporary or permanent outdoor spaces for guests during the pandemic. According to the National Restaurant Association, outdoor dining is vital to the industry's post-pandemic survival and expanding outdoor dining remains a critical need in replenishment of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund federal grant program.

After purchasing a tavern in Wisconsin, Darryl Holley hired Ziegler's Landscapes by Design to build an outdoor entertainment area just a few weeks before the pandemic required temporary closure of the business. Landscaping was deemed an essential business and work continued. Ziegler's created a low freestanding retaining wall that serves as seating for lawn game spectators and concert-goers. "The only regret we have is that we didn't make the patio bigger," said Holley. "Live music outside draws a lot of people."

Homeowners in Stillwater, Minnesota, wanted to replace an aging wooden deck while preserving the view of their woods. "With a raised patio design, you have many more design options," said Andrew Lofboom, a landscape designer with Villa Landscapes. "We used VERSA-LOK to build the support for a paver patio on top. The cost of a raised patio can be less than replacing a deck, and it affords homeowners the option to expand in the future, such as adding an outdoor kitchen or seat walls."

Lofboom chose the VERSA-LOK Standard retaining wall system because it makes both design and installation easier. With a mechanical pinning system and no hollow cores to fill, VERSA-LOK is renowned for versatility, durability and flexibility for creating curves, columns, multi-angled corners and tiers needed for stunning outdoor designs.

Sporting views

SRWs are surprisingly economical for stadium, stage and outdoor classroom seating at schools, parks and sporting venues. An amphitheater at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls was renovated with a VERSA-LOK Mosaic retaining wall system chosen to replace crumbling limestone seating on the slope across from the bandshell. The elements had taken a toll on the amphitheater, built in 1972 of local limestone. "Natural stone was out of our budget, so we went with VERSA-LOK," said Joe McIntosh, a grounds supervisor.

When Lawrence, Kansas, school officials learned that aluminum bleachers could not be manufactured in time for football season at their new stadium and that they would run about \$400 a seat, they searched for a faster and more economical solution. Landplan Engineering and Capitol Concrete Products of Lawrence showed the district that it could save \$100-200 per seat by using VERSA-LOK Standard retaining wall units and finish the job in time for the fall season.

Retaining walls for the win

While SRWs are best known for site development, erosion control and transitioning slopes in a landscape, they also are a solid solution for outdoor seating. From sitting walls and raised patios to stadiums and tiered, bermed seating, retaining walls get the job done beautifully and on budget.

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